



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### TOPEKA, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR THREE TOPEKA BANK ROBBERIES

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Larry D. Merriweather**, 22, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced on November 24, 2003, by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson to **37 years and ten months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by five years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$22,716.50 in restitution.**

Melgren said that Merriweather entered a guilty plea on August 18, 2003, to **three counts of bank robbery, two counts of brandishing a firearm during a bank robbery, and one count of discharging a firearm during a bank robbery.**

Melgren said that Merriweather admitted at his plea that on June 20, 2002, he entered the Capital City Bank, 2825 SE California, Topeka, Kansas, brandished a handgun and robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of cash. Merriweather also admitted that on August 28, 2002, he again entered the Capital City Bank, 2825 SE California, Topeka, and robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of cash. Merriweather further admitted that on October 24, 2002, he entered the Lyndon State Bank, 1535 SW Fairlawn Road, Topeka, brandished a firearm, stole a second firearm from the bank's security guard, robbed the bank of an undisclosed amount of cash and, while attempting to escape, shot and seriously injured the security guard.

**Co-defendant Lamanzo Searcy**, 30, Topeka, Kansas was sentenced on June 16, 2003, to eleven years and nine months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by six years of supervised release. Searcy entered a guilty plea on March 21, 2003, to one count of robbing the Capital City Bank on June 20, 2002, and one count of brandishing a firearm during the bank robbery.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony Mattivi in this prosecution. News releases are now available at [www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/).

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